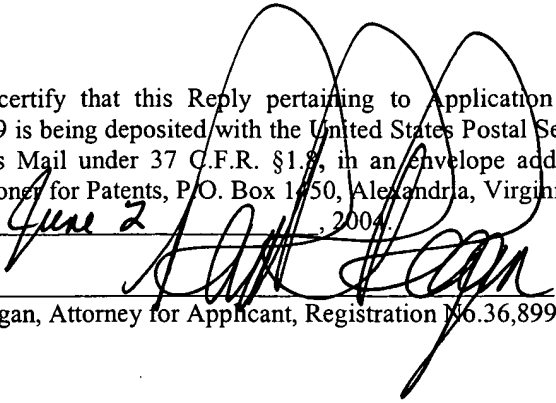




IFW AF/3679

I hereby certify that this Reply pertaining to Application Number 10/600,379 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on June 2, 2004.


Ray R. Regan, Attorney for Applicant, Registration No. 36,899

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Steve B. Taylor
Sole Inventor: Steve B. Taylor
For: A Coupler
Filing Date: June 20, 2003
Application Number: 10/600,379
Attorney Docket Number: 2236.001
Express Mail Label Number: EV233997831US
Group Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Victor MacArthur

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION NUMBER 02 (FINAL)
MAILED BY THE EXAMINER ON MAY 6, 2004**

To: Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Introductory Comments

In response to the Final Office Action dated May 6, 2004, having a statutory period for response of six months as provided in 35 U.S.C. § 133 reduced by the Commissioner to three months as provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, a time set to expire on August 6, 2004, please enter this

Reply in connection with the above-captioned patent application (“Application”).

Other documents accompanying this paper include, as a professional courtesy to the Examiner, a copy of Applicant’s Notice of Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees in connection with this paper, and to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account Number 501565 for the Law Office of Ray R. Regan, P.A.

No new matter has been added to the application because of any action taken in this Reply.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks and Arguments of the Applicant begin on page 9 of this paper.